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RULES
FOR THE
GOVERNMENT
OF THE
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CHARLESTON, S. C.

I.

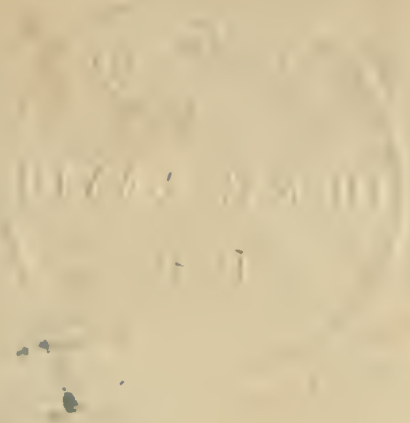
Adopted on the 2d of April 1828.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED
RULES
FOR THE SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENT
OF SAID CHURCH,

Adopted by the Pastor, Session and Male Communicants in the
Year 1825.

CHARLESTON:
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PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS an Association was formed, for the purpose of raising a fund, for the extinguishment of a debt, due by the Corporation of the Second Presbyterian Church, on certain conditions, as expressed in resolutions, ratified by that body on the 3d of August 1823, in words following, viz.

Resolved, That an Association be formed for the purpose of raising a fund for paying, or extricating the Corporation from the debt now due by the Church, as per schedule, amounting to \$23,465 67.

Resolved, That the Corporation shall transfer all their right, title and interest, to the said company, or Association, when they have made the necessary arrangements, for extricating the Corporation from the debt, still reserving the right, to all Pewholders who have paid the original assessment, and who shall pay of this Association an amount equal to the assessment of 1817, and become stockholders to that amount.— And the Pewholders paying that sum shall not be

liable to any future assessment by the present corporation, or the Association to be formed for the payment of the debt now due by the Church.

Resolved, That the temporal affairs of the Church, viz.—such as fixing Salaries, Pew Rents, &c. shall be under the exclusive controul and management of the Association, who shall make such Bye-Laws, as they may deem suitable for the interest of the Church, and in all the elections of proprietors they shall be entitled to vote in the following ratio, viz.—

Each member who has paid One Hundred to Two Hundred Dollars	One Vote.
Above \$200 to 400	Two Votes.
Above \$400 to 800	Three Votes.
Above \$800 to 1400	Four Votes.
Above \$1,400 to 2,000	Five Votes.
Above \$2,000 to 3,000	Six Votes.
Above \$3,000 to 5,000	Seven Votes.
Above \$5,000	Eight Votes.

Provided, nevertheless, that in all elections for Pastor and Clerk, and in all the spiritual affairs of the Church, the male Pewholders *only*, shall be entitled to one vote each ; but any person who has not been a Pewholder for one year previous to the election, or who exceeds six months in arrears for rent, cannot debate, or vote, until his arrears are paid up, *except* within the first year, when six months Pew rent will be required in advance, before any such Pewholder will be entitled to vote.

Resolved, That the said Association shall guarantee that the Doctrines of the Presbyterian Church, according to the Confession of Faith, as established by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church

in the United States, shall be the rule of Government for the Church.

AND WHEREAS agreeably to the said Resolutions an Association *was* formed, and *did* extinguish the debt, as specified in said Resolutions, and on the 1st day of January 1828, a regular and legal transfer of all the Corporate property was made to JOHN ROBINSON, JAMES ADGER, WILLIAM AIKEN, WILLIAM SMITH, jun. and RICHARD CUNNINGHAM, in trust for said Association, by ALEXANDER BLACK, Esq. President of said Corporation by and under the stipulations of the aforesaid resolutions, and also by the direction of that Body, under a resolution *unanimously* adopted on the 21st day of August 1827, in words following, viz.

“ *Resolved*, That the President of this Corporation be authorised and directed to transfer and sign over forthwith to such persons as may be appointed Trustees by the Association, all the right, title and interest of this Corporation in and to the premises of the Second Presbyterian Church, subject, however, to such reservations and provisions, as are contained in the Resolutions approved and confirmed by this Corporation on the 3d of August 1823.

And as every Association, or union of men, either for civil or religious purposes, must of necessity be governed by certain known and established rules.

The Association of the Second Presbyterian Church having agreed to define the great outlines of their government, in accordance with the foregoing Preamble, in Bye-Laws, which shall be binding on all who are, or who shall become members thereof.

2 upwards.

RULES.

RULE I.

All male Stockholders in this Association to the amount of One Hundred Dollars, not under the age of twenty-one years, and who have signed these Rules, and who holds a pew, or half of a pew, and has held the same for twelve months, and has paid up his pew rent to the first day of the six months in which the meeting is held, shall be entitled to consult, debate and vote, in all matters and things which may of right be transacted by this Association in conformity with the preamble set forth in these Rules.

But no Stockholder in this Association who has not held a pew or half of a pew for twelve months, signed these rules, and paid up his pew rent for the last six months, shall debate or vote in this Association unless he was an original subscriber or holds Stock transferred to him to the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars, and has signed these Rules.— All *original subscribers* to this Association to the amount of Three Hundred Dollars, or under that sum shall be entitled to eight feet square of land in the Burial Ground of the Church, and all original subscribers above Three Hundred Dollars to

Five Hundred Dollars, shall be entitled to two squares of eight feet of ground, and all subscribers above Five Hundred Dollars to Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars, shall be entitled to three squares of eight feet, and all subscribers above Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars, shall be entitled to eight feet square of ground for every Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars subscribed; with permission to inter any of their family and friends free of any charge, except the Clerk and Sexton's fees.

RULE II.

All persons who have rented a Pew for the ~~last~~ twelve months, and have paid up their Pew rents regularly, shall be entitled to set apart eight feet square of ground in the Grave Yard *for a full Pew*, and while they continue to pay Pew rents regularly may inter any of their immediate family therein on payment of Clerk and Sexton's fees.

RULE III.

A Certificate of the following form shall be issued to each Stockholder :

Charleston, S. C.

This Certificate entitles
to an interest in the Association of the Second Presbyterian Church, to the amount of

Dollars	Cents, rateably
and proportionably, with Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars, amount of capital invested, and with any additional sum, that may hereafter be added, subject to certain Resolutions of the Corporation of the Second Presbyterian Church, of the City and Suburbs of Charleston, ratified by that Body on the third day of August, one thousand eight hun-	

dred and twenty-three, and to such Bye-Laws as this Association have, or may hereafter adopt.

This Certificate, transferable only in person or by Power of Attorney at the Office of the Secretary.

President.

Attest.

Secretary.

RULE IV.

By the Resolutions in the Preamble, the election of Pastor, Clerk, &c. devolves on the male Pewholders generally. In all such elections, two thirds of all the male Pewholders, shall be present, and four-fifths of that number, shall be required to make an election. All meetings of the Pewholders of this Church shall be called together by the President of the Association, or any Seven Pewholders, and the President shall preside at all such meetings ; the Secretary of the Association shall take down the minutes, and regularly enter them on the Journals of the Association, *as the proceedings of the Pewholders.*

RULE V.

The salary of the Pastor, Clerk, &c. shall be fixed by this Association, by a resolution of the same, which resolution previous to the election of a Pastor shall be furnished to the Senior Elder of the Session, who will be authorised under said resolution to give a call to the Pastor, when elected by the Pewholders.

RULE VI.

The spiritual affairs of the Church, such as the election and ordination of Elders, and all matters and things growing out of the same, shall be exclusively governed by the Pastor, Session and Male Communicants, in good standing, when not in contravention to

the established ~~doctrines~~ of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

RULE VII.

The Elders when the Church is vacant, shall have the charge of the Pulpit, and obtain temporary supplies, and the Standing Committee shall be authorised to grant such compensation, as they may think right.

RULE VIII.

The Anniversary or Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Wednesday in April in every year. On the Sabbath previous a sermon adapted to the occasion shall be delivered by the Pastor of the Church, or some other Clergyman, appointed by the Session. At this meeting, a President, a Treasurer and a Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot, from among the members of the Association. In the absence of the President, a Chairman shall be appointed "*Pro Tem.*" and not less than ten members, representing twenty-five votes, shall be a quorum to transact business. In case of vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise of any officer, the Association shall at the next meeting fill up the vacancy, to continue until the next anniversary, or until another is elected.

RULE IX.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and preserve good order and decorum among the members. He shall keep the Common Seal of the Association, and affix it to all papers and deeds, when authorised to do so by the same. All speeches shall be addressed to him. No member shall interrupt another while speaking, and when two or

more members rise at once, the President shall determine who is to be first heard. He shall have no vote in any matter which comes before the Association, except in the appropriation of money, and if the votes be then equally divided, he shall have a casting vote.

RULE X.

The Treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to the Association. He shall keep proper books, in which shall be entered all monies received and paid away; he shall not pay any monies, except the fixed salaries of the Minister, Clerk and Sexton, unless authorised by a vote of the Association or of the Standing Committee. He shall make a report to the Standing Committee when required by them, which report shall contain the names of all persons in arrears for Pew Rent, or otherwise indebted to the Church: and if he fail to make such a report, he shall be accountable to the Association for the amount lost through his neglect. He shall also prepare and give into the Annual Meeting a fair statement of all monies received and disbursed, during the preceding year, reported on by the Committee, agreeably to the following rule, and the names of all persons indebted to the Association, with the amount due by each; as also all other such duty as may reasonably be required of him by the Association or Standing Committee; and for the due and faithful discharge of his office, he shall give bond with approved security to the Association, in double the amount of all the specialties, or monies, he shall or may have in the course of the year in his possession, which Bond shall be duly executed and lodged with the President. As a compensation for his services he shall receive five per cent. on all monies by him received for Pew Rents ~~and Intimations~~

RULE XI.

The President shall appoint a Committee of Five Members to examine the Treasurer's Annual Account, together with all his vouchers (which he shall submit to them) and to prepare a report thereon, to be laid before the Annual Stated Meeting of the Association for their approbation or disapprobation ; which Committee shall meet on some day to be appointed by the President, in the week previous to the Annual Meeting, of which he shall give notice to each Member of the Committee.

RULE XII.

The Secretary shall keep an exact list of the names of all the Members of the Association in the order in which they are, or shall become so, with the amount of Stock held by *each*. He shall take correct minutes of every matter and thing transacted at the meeting of the Association, which minutes he shall afterwards copy out fair in the Association Minute Book. He shall keep all papers, petitions, &c. and when a vote is taken he shall, if required by three Members, call over the names of the Members present and mark the yeas and nays.

RULE XIII.

There shall be no Stated Meetings of the Association besides the Annual one on the first Wednesday in April, but the President may call an extra meeting when he thinks proper ; and it shall be his duty to call one when he has been so requested in writing by the Pastor and Session, or by any Five Members of the Association, and notice given in writing left at the residence of the Members, or in *their* pews on the Sabbath previous to the meeting intended, shall be sufficient

notice, provided that such extra meeting shall not have power to alter any Bye-Law, or to make any new Bye-Law, other than as required by the 15th Rule. In case of the death or absence of the President, the Standing Committee shall have a right to call an extra meeting.

RULE XIV.

All business brought before the Association shall be by motion in writing (if so required by the presiding officer) made by one member, and seconded by another; and no motion shall be considered, unless seconded; and no member shall speak oftener than twice, on the same motion, without leave asked and obtained, and every matter and thing which comes, or may of right come before the Association, shall be determined by a majority of the votes present, except when otherwise determined by the Rules.

RULE XV.

On the Anniversary Meeting a Committee of Six Members shall be elected by ballot, who, together with the President shall be a Standing Committee for the year ensuing. They shall attend to all the secular affairs of the Association, and also direct the Treasurer in all matters and things which they may deem necessary for the benefit of the Association; examine some day previous to the Anniversary the state of the funds of the Association, and recommend, if necessary, what rate of Pew rents shall be assessed for the ensuing year. They shall also on each Anniversary recommend, if necessary, to the Association, at what rate the interments shall be fixed the ensuing year for Strangers.

RULE XVI.

All permissions for interment shall be given by the President, or one of the Standing Committee *on his receiving the fees for the ground*, and in case the Clerk and Sexton permits any interment without the fees being first paid, he or they, will be held responsible for the same. And the Clerk and Sexton shall make a return to the Treasurer on the 1st day of each month of all interments made and by whom permission for the same was granted. The Standing Committee shall have power to permit the interment of indigent persons, ~~members or~~ *Pewholders* of this Church, gratis. And the Standing Committee shall fix the duties of Clerk and Sexton.

No Tomb or Head Stone shall be erected, nor any Square be marked off without permission from the Standing Committee; nor shall any grave or Square be railed in.

RULE XVII.

None of the foregoing Rules shall be altered or new Rules made, except proposed at a meeting regularly summoned, and confirmed at a subsequent meeting or at an Anniversary Meeting, at which there shall be present two-thirds of the legal votes of the Association, and a majority of the votes present agreeing thereto.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Rules were adopted at a Meeting of the Association of the Second Presbyterian Church, duly summoned and held at the Lecture Room of said Church, at which a majority of all the votes were present, on the Nineteenth day of March; and confirmed at the Anniversary

Meeting of said Association on the Second day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, and in the eighteenth year after the foundation of the said Church was laid.

JOHN ROBINSON, *Prest.*

Attest—WM. C. DUKES, Sec'y.

* The following shall be the rules for the erection of such Tomb-stones in New Stone, 1/2 by 3/4 ft. (one side) flat on the one part high 3 ft. 2 in. Monumental or Pyram. shaped. These joints & stones shall be laid in the

RULES
FOR THE
SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Although this Church adopt "the Confession of Faith and form of government, and discipline of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States," as the rule of their faith and practice, yet inasmuch as there are several matters in the mode of government and discipline left there undetermined; by which a variety of practice is introduced into the Churches, under the care of the General Assembly, the following additional rules are adopted.

I. The Elders of this Church shall be elected by the male members, and shall be ordained with the imposition of hands, in the presence of the congregation.

II. All such elections shall be decided by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, who shall

have two weeks notice of the nomination of candidates for that office ; which nomination shall be made by the session then in office.

III. No person shall be admitted a member of this Church who does not, on examination, give satisfactory evidence of a renewal of heart and faith and repentance towards God.

IV. All applications for admission to Church membership, shall be made to the Session, through the Pastor. And notice of such intended application, shall have been given at least two weeks previous to the meeting of the Session, which shall take place on the Friday before the communion.

V. The Session shall examine every candidate prior to admission.

VI. All who may be admitted to membership, shall make a public profession of their faith, and enter into solemn covenant with Almighty God, in the presence of the congregation, on the morning of the Sabbath, on which the Sacrament is administered.

VII. The following shall be the form of admission, viz.

Address to the Candidates.

You have thus presented yourselves before Almighty God with a view to dedicate yourselves to his service, and to become members of his visible Church. Your engagement in this transaction forms the most memorable epoch in your lives. By a public contract you are about to surrender yourselves to your Creator: to avouch the Lord to be your God, Jesus Christ your Redeemer, and yourselves his servants forever. You are surrounded by witnesses who attest the compact into which you enter. The all-seeing eye of Jehovah

*[For to receive him and your election
to him] - that he may be
any more upon earth]*

is upon you: and his holy angels are spectators of this scene. Brethren, we trust you have not rashly come up hither. We trust that you have well considered the nature and consequences of this act. And in this confidence, we invite you to approach with a holy boldness unto the Great Head of the Church: casting all your anxieties and cares upon him, and relying on him alone for grace and strength to fulfil your solemn engagements.

Profession of Faith.

You believe that there is one true God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. You believe in the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament; and that they contain the only rule of faith and practice. You believe in the fall of man, in his entire depravity by nature, and in the necessity of repentance towards God, and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You believe in the doctrines of a general resurrection and future judgement; in the everlasting blessedness of the righteous, and in the endless punishment of the finally impenitent. You thus publicly profess to bewail the past unbelief and enmity of your hearts, and the manifold transgressions of your lives.

Covenant.

And now in the presence of these witnesses you do solemnly surrender yourselves to the Lord Jehovah, receiving him as your portion, and acknowledging him the supreme object of your love. Depending upon divine grace for assistance, you hereby sacredly bind yourselves to glorify God by obedience to his laws, and by a diligent observance of his ordinances. You declare yourselves at enmity with all that is inimical to the cause of Jesus. You promise to sepa-

rate yourselves from the world, so far as its engagements would cool your affections in piety, or bring a stigma upon your holy profession. You pledge yourselves to obey the laws and regulations of this particular Church, and to submit to its discipline, while you continue a member of the same; throwing yourself upon its care, and affectionately regarding its interests.

Concluding Address.

Beloved in the Lord, your engagement is sealed forever. You have formed a contract which no power on earth can dissolve. These vows will follow you through time, and accompany you to the judgement seat. Your condition from this hour, is changed in the sight of Heaven. You are no longer your own. You are given up as the property of God.

We who are members of this Church affectionately welcome you to a fellowship with us. We hail you as participants in the same glorious hope and blessings of the Gospel.

And now, when you depart from this place, carry with you the salutary recollection that the eyes of the world are upon you: and that as you henceforth conduct yourselves religion will be disgraced or honoured. Remember that your engagement is not with man, but with God. The negligence, therefore, or the folly, or the coldness of others around you, can never furnish an excuse for your own direliction. You stand or fall, each one of you, by yourselves. Abide then near a throne of grace. Be diligent in duty; watchful in life and conversation; and you shall be assured of the fulfilment of that promise, "*that he which hath begun*

a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

VIII. Yet although these shall be the regulations for admission, they shall be considered applicable only to such as have not been members of another Church, with whom we are understood to be in fellowship.—Applicants from such a Church, who present a certificate of good standing, and whose characters are known to be pious and exemplary, are not required to enter into public covenant, they having engaged in that act, in the church from which they are translated. The names of such persons, after admission, shall be read from the pulpit.

IX. The ordinance of Baptism shall always be administered in public, excepting under extraordinary circumstances.

X. Baptism shall be administered to infants, where one of the parents is a member of the church in good standing; and to such as are in the opinion of the Pastor fit subjects.

XI. Every member of this Church shall expect the strictest exercise of discipline (according to the Confession of Faith and form of government of the Presbyterian Church,) wherein offence may have been given.

XII. Any member of the Church absenting himself from the communion twice in succession, shall be called upon by the Session for his reason for this neglect. And if no proper reason be given, he shall be dealt with by the Session for such neglect, in such way as they may think proper.